

THE MORNING NEWS

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Mrs. Universe 2013 candidates are welcomed to Aruba



The island of Aruba is proud to be the host of this year's Mrs. Universe event, being conducted at the Westin Aruba Resort in Palm Beach this coming Sunday, August 11. Thirty of the thirty-two candidates have arrived from all corners of the globe, including Mrs. India, Mrs. Bangladesh and Mrs. Pakistan, to name just a few of the distant entries.

On Sunday, the current Mrs. Universe, Aruba's Ysaura Wong, will turn over her crown to the woman who has demonstrated not only the poise, beauty and maturity that is criteria for being Mrs. Universe, but the community spirit and development of character that are key points in the judges' final decision.

Organizers of the event, Megi Savova, Sava Tzekov, Marianna Marinova and Ioan Karamfilov were welcomed at Garage Centraal, agents for Hyundai, a principal sponsor of the event, for a meet and greet yesterday morning.

They expressed their enormous satisfaction with reigning Mrs. Universe Ysaura Wong, for her exceptional efforts in enabling this year's event to take place on Aruba. Mr. Karamfilov expressed, on behalf of all the organizers, who are from Bulgaria, their delight in

Aruba and all the services it offers, as a host venue for the pageant.

An important point for the organizers is that the Mrs. Universe event is not thought of as a pageant, but more of a forum for women from around the world to exchange ideas and cultural information.

Since its inception, Mrs. Universe has stood for the appreciation and proper treatment of women of all ages, and has made the battle of violence, particularly against women, their motto and purpose. This year's theme is "Stop Domestic Violence," last year it was "Say No to Violence."

Among the various awards of recognition distributed by the judges is "Mother of the Universe." Aruba is honored to welcome the 2012 winner, Fior Santiago of the Dominican Republic, as part of the delegation participating in this year's event.

Continued on pg 3

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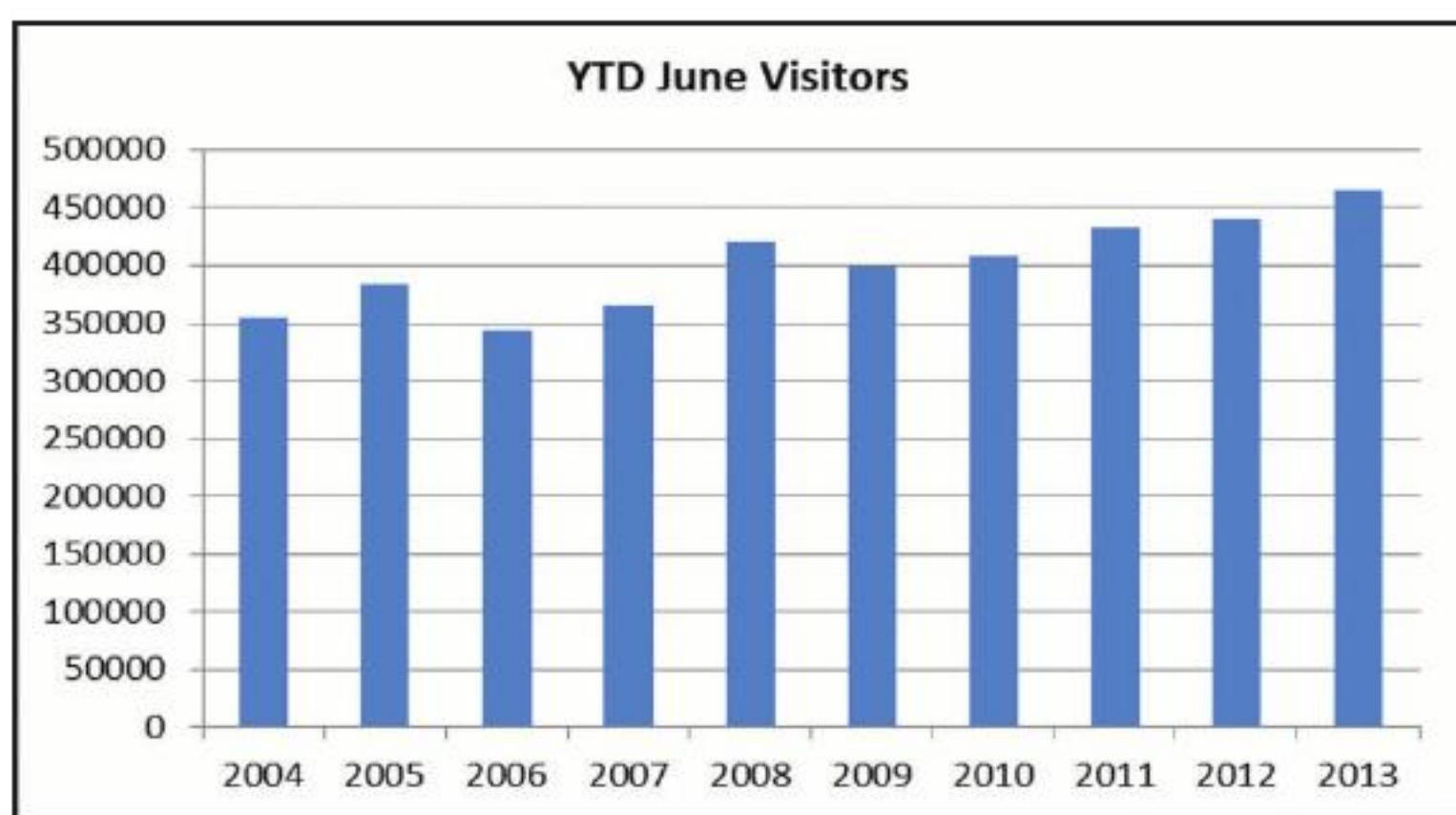


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Aruba Tourism Authority happy with first 6 months of 2013



According to ATA CEO, Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes, the primary goal of ATA is to maintain, and where possible increase the number of visitors to the island during the high season as well as during the months of the low season. The objective is to focus on quality and to stim-

ulate our visitors to spend more while on Aruba, this way contributing to the growth and economy of our island.

Based on information collected from our visitors, Aruba has received a total of 465,375 visitors compared to

the same period in 2012, which was 441,341. This indicates a growth of 5.44% which is the equivalent of 24,034 more visitors. Remarkable is that during each month there was an increase with the exception of the month of April. In April there was a slight drop during the Holy Week which fell in 2012 in April and this year in the month of March.

Aruba has shown an increase of 3% from our primary market... North America.

The next big tourism continent for Aruba is Latin America, where we have seen an increase of 20%. There was no change from the European market for the first 6 months of 2013.

With respect to the month of July, the number of visitors grew by 8.71% compared to the same month in 2012... the best July ever for Aruba! With the July results we noted an increase of 5.95% compared to the first 7 months of this year with the same period last year.

Growth from the North American region (8.2%) and

from the Latin American region (17.35%) compensated for the drop from Europe (-11.81%). The European region will continue to be a real challenge due to their financial/economic situation.

In the cruise tourism industry, a total of 408,480 passengers visited Aruba during the first months of this year, which is an increase of 13.4% (48,279 more visitors) compared to the same period last year. The number of crew passengers who came unto the island increased by 14.7%, the equivalent of 163,826 persons.

That is 21,030 more crew members compared to the first 6 months of last year.

To analyze the quality of our visitors during the first 6 months of this year, we need to review the Average Daily Rate (ADR) of Aruba. This is the price that the tourist pays for every room/per person. This gives us an indication of the quality of tourist Aruba attracts. The ADR for Aruba grew by 2.5%, the equivalent in price is US\$223.20 on the average for the first 6 months of 2013. While the average

occupancy per room was 76.9%, a reduction of 0.3% compared to the same period in 2012 when that was 77.2%.

The availability of rooms increased by 3.3% which included the 215 rooms which were added by the Holiday Inn Resort in the month of March 2013. This brought about an increase of 2.9% in hotel rooms compared to the same period of 2012. The RevPar (Revenue per Available Room) increased by 2.2%, the equivalent of an average of US\$171.68 during the first 6 months of 2013.

The Caribbean Tourism Organization reported in their July 16, 2013 report a drop in tourism for the different islands in the Caribbean to include Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Jamaica, Dominican Republic and the US Virgin Islands.

The following graph gives a graphic view of the stats for the first 6 months of the year. The ATA CEO is proud and very satisfied with Aruba's results which are indicative of our hard work and dedicated efforts.

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Mrs. Universe 2013 candidates are welcomed to Aruba

Continued from pg 1



All the candidates



The organizers explained she was selected not only for the fact that she is an exceptional mother to seven children, but her high degree of community activity, even personally

financing food kitchens for the hungry and homeless.

The intriguing group of accomplished women, all married, while often juggling demanding careers, mother-



hood, and community service, are most definitely not the typical "Barbie Doll" image of the average beauty

pageant, which is the principal philosophy of the event.

This year, Noscarra online magazine of Aruba is playing an important roll in the organization and promotion of the event. Individual profiles are on their website:

<http://www.noscarra.com/mrsuniverse/>

They are also hosting the voting for the People's Choice winner.

Tickets for Sunday evening are available at Blossom's Restaurant the Westin Resort, JH Yee's Asian Bistro in South Beach Center in Palm Beach and at Garage Centraal.



Four-legged fashion for our furry friends at Paseo Herencia



Fashionable dog carriers



Furry Fashion



Olga Moniz and Tina Marquez are two close friends who love their adorable dogs, and believe that others feel as they do: fashion need not be limited to only ladies.

Their equally adorable new shop, Maxi-Pet, in Paseo Herencia Shopping Mall in Palm Beach, is completely dedicated to the those who wish only the best and most stylish for their canine companions.

From incredible outfits, to snazzy and comfy carriers and beds for toy dogs, glittering collars and scents emulating those of the most famous designer brands, everything imaginable for the well dressed and accessorized pooch can be found in their brand new kiosk in the Plaza Padu.

The assortment of doggy outfits, for both male and females, is nothing short of amazing and infinitely amusing. Those who adore their fur babies and would relish putting together a matching outfit, will be inspired by their collection.

Olga and Tina are con-



vinced that dogs enjoy dress up as much as they do, and cats, of course, also require the most elegant and glamorous of collars and leashes. Their fabulously fun new shop is open in the evenings from 5:00 PM.

By Rosalie Klein

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SUN UP 06:27 AM SUN DOWN 07:05 PM.

WIND: MODERATE WINDS DIRECTION EAST
AVERAGE 16 KTS GUSTING UP TO 26 KTS.

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MARINE CONDITIONS: WAVE DIRECCION WILL BE EAST WITH WAVEHEIGHTS BETWEEN 4 TO 6 FEET.

TROPICAL WEATHER OUTLOOK: NOTHING OF SIGNIFICANCE.

Meteorological Department Aruba

New envoy says US leadership at UN 'indispensable'



UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - US leadership at the United Nations is indispensable, Washington's new envoy to the global body said Monday.

Samantha Power presented her credentials to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon following her confirmation by the US Senate late last week.

The 42-year-old replaces Susan Rice whom President Barack Obama named in June to be his national security advisor.

"As I made clear in my testimony before the Senate, the UN is critical to a range of US interests and US lead-

ership at the UN is indispensable to making progress on those interests," Power said before meeting with Ban.

Some of the issues Washington and the UN must work together on include terrorism, "mass atrocities in Syria," as well as South Sudan, global poverty and the crackdown on civil society around the world, she said.

Power, a Harvard Law School graduate and former special assistant to Obama, enjoyed widespread support during the confirmation process as someone who would be an effective and eloquent advocate for US interests.

Dollar rises against euro on US services data

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - The dollar Monday edged higher against the euro after a better-than-expected report on the US services sector. Near 2200 GMT, the euro bought \$1.3259 compared with \$1.3279 Friday. The dollar lost ground to the Japanese yen, trading at 98.27 yen from 98.89 yen. The euro also dropped to 130.30 yen from 131.35 yen. The ISM's index for the US services sector surged to 56 percent in July, 3.8 points higher than the level in June and above the 53.2 average forecast by analysts. The report showed strong improvement in business activity and new orders and helped reverse the dollar's negative momentum from Friday's jobs report, when the greenback fell against major currencies after July job gains lagged expectations.

Aruba Ports Authority and PTZtv launch HD Sail-A-Way broadcasts



Aruba Ports Authority (APA) N.V. partnered with PTZtv based out of Ft. Lauderdale to promote cruise ship arrival

and departure coverage from the Port of Oranjestad. The control tower at the Port of Oranjestad has been selected

as the prime location for our live streaming broadcasts as all cruise ship berths and container ship operations are



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Needless to say this venture will also stimulate our port's online presence to the existing PTZtv audience who follow both Ft Lauderdale and Miami ports among others. Most of our cruise ship calls originate from these ports which cater to millions of passengers annually.

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Republicans to TV networks: Don't 'promote' Clinton



WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Republican Party on Monday threatened to prevent two US television networks from carrying party primary debates if they don't abandon planned documentaries on Hillary Clinton.

NBC Entertainment is planning a miniseries and CNN is working on a documentary about the Democratic former secretary of state as she mulls a potential run for the White House in

2016.

"As an American company, you have every right to air programming of your choice," Republican National Committee chairman Reince Priebus wrote to CNN president Jeff Zucker and NBC Entertainment chairman Robert Greenblatt.

"But as American citizens, certainly you recognize why many are astounded at your actions, which appear to be a major network's thinly veiled

attempt at putting a thumb on the scales of the 2016 presidential election."

Clinton, a former first lady and US senator whose turn as America's top diplomat earned her widespread praise, is seen as the clear Democratic frontrunner for president.

She has made no announcement of her political plans but the RNC letters -- more than three years ahead of the 2016 election -- show the party's nervousness about a run by Clinton, who narrowly lost the Democratic nomination to Barack Obama in 2008.

"Your credibility as a supposedly unbiased news network will most certainly be jeopardized by the decision to show political favoritism and produce an extended commercial for secretary Clinton's nascent campaign," Priebus told Zucker.

In a separate statement, Priebus blasted the networks, saying "their actions to promote Secretary Clinton are disturbing and disappointing."

Should CNN and NBC not agree to pull the productions before the RNC holds its summer meeting beginning August 14, Priebus told the networks he will seek a binding RNC vote "stating that the committee will neither partner with you in 2016 primary debates nor sanction primary debates which you sponsor."

CNN responded by urging the RNC in a statement to not make "premature decisions about a project that is in the very early stages of development and months from completion."

The broadcaster also said it would be odd if the RNC declines to host Republican debates, saying that limiting such participation would "be the ultimate disservice to voters."

NBC issued a statement simply saying "NBC News is completely independent of NBC Entertainment and has no involvement in this project."

NBC Entertainment announced in July it was producing "Hillary," a four-part miniseries starring Diane Lane.

CNN's film division said it has commissioned a feature-length documentary by Academy Award-winning director Charles Ferguson that will run in theaters in 2014 before airing on the cable station.



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Obama to decide on Russia trip 'in coming days'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House said Monday it would decide "in coming days" whether President Barack Obama will go ahead with a summit in Moscow in early September.

The United States has said it is reviewing whether Obama will meet President Vladimir Putin in Moscow after Russia last week gave asylum to Edward Snowden, who is wanted by Washington for leaking details of US surveillance programs.

"While we have a wide range of interests with the Russians, we are continuing to evaluate the utility of a summit," White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters.

"I think it's fair to say that you can expect we'll have a decision to announce in coming days," he said.

Snowden, a former US government contractor, fled the United States for Hong Kong and later Russia after leaking details of widespread US government monitoring of citizens' communications.

"We obviously disagree with the Russians very strongly about the decision they've made on Mr. Snowden," Carney said.

Carney said that the United States also took issue with Russia on other issues, pointing to its support for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in his campaign against rebels.

"We've made those disagreements plain, both publicly and privately, in our discussions with the Russians," Carney said.

On whether to hold a summit in Moscow, "we are evaluating that against not just our disagreement over Mr. Snowden but some of the other issues where we have

failed to see, thus far, eye to eye," he said.

Obama had agreed to meet Putin in Moscow ahead of a September 5-6 summit of the Group of 20 major economic powers in Saint Petersburg.

The White House has not cast doubt on Obama's participation at the G20.

But two US senators, Republican Lindsey Graham and Democrat Chuck Schumer, have called for a change in location of the G20 summit if Russia does not hand over Snowden.

Gay rights activists have also urged Obama to step up pressure on Russia over tough news laws on homosexuality.

Chilean probe into Pinochet millions files no charges

SANTIAGO (AFP) - A Chilean judge has closed a nine-year investigation into late dictator Augusto Pinochet's secret bank accounts abroad, without bringing charges against any member of the former president's family.

Judge Manuel Valderrama said he had exhausted all leads but had not determined the source of the more than \$21 million placed in the Riggs Bank in Washington, DC and other institutions.

Pinochet's five children and his wife Lucia Hiriart initially had been accused of embezzlement, but none were charged with any crime. The closure of the probe triggered competing claims from plaintiffs and Pinochet's family.

Hiroshima marks anniversary of US atomic bombing



HIROSHIMA (AFP) - Tens of thousands were due to gather at a peace memorial park in Hiroshima on Tuesday to mark the 68th anniversary of the US atomic bombing of the Japanese city.

Ageing survivors, relatives, government officials and foreign delegates were to observe a moment of silence at 8:15 am (2315 GMT Monday), the time of the detonation which turned the city into a nuclear inferno.

An American B-29 bomber named Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb on August 6, 1945, in one of the final chapters of World War II. It killed an estimated

140,000 by December that year. Three days later, the port city of Nagasaki was also bombed.

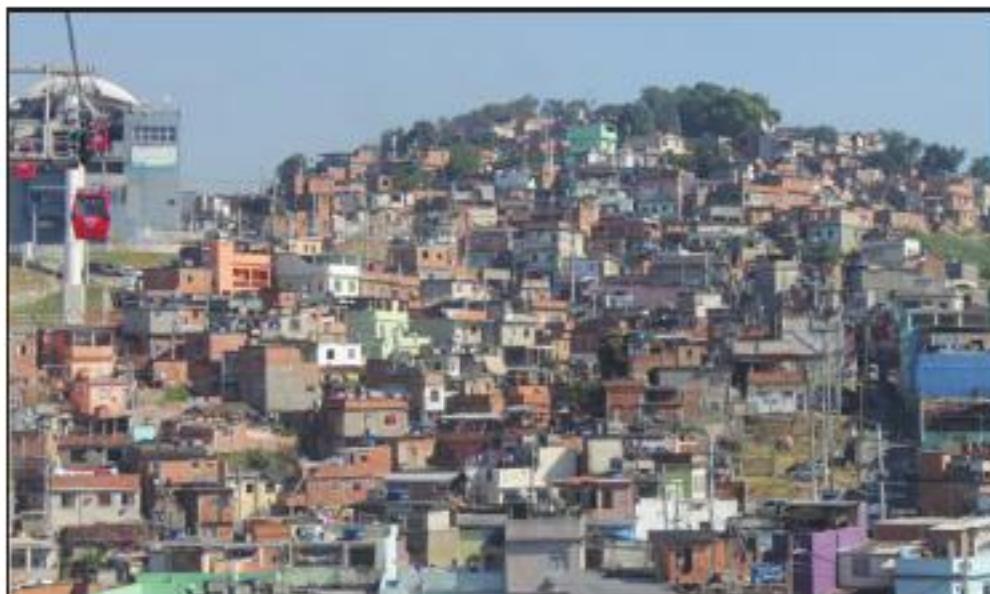
The Allied powers have long argued that the twin attacks brought a quick end to the war by speeding up Japan's surrender, preventing millions more casualties from a land invasion planned for later in the year.

Japanese officials later Tuesday will be unveiling Tokyo's biggest-ever naval ship in peacetime, as the government moves to beef up Japan's self-defence forces, jangling nerves in neighbouring China and South Korea.



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Brazil police occupy drug-infested Rio slum



RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Some 180 elite Brazilian police officers deployed into a drug-infested slum complex in northern Rio on Monday in order to prepare the way for a permanent presence there.

The Mangueirinha complex, located in the Baixada Fluminense district, is home to 25,000 people and comprises the Corte 8, Sapo, Santuario and Mangueirinha favelas.

Police said a 180-strong detachment, mainly from the elite Shock battalion, would be deployed for 30 days to prepare for a permanent presence.

But, for now, authorities say they do not plan to deploy a Police Pacification Unit in Mangueirinhas, as has happened since 2008 in other favelas once under the sway of drug gangs.

Pacification deployments are part of an official campaign to restore security ahead of next year's World Cup and the 2016 Rio summer Olympics.

The Mangueirinha shantytowns were controlled by Red Command, Brazil's oldest drug trafficking organization, which fled dozens of other slums secured by police, mainly in the south of the city that is popular with tourists.

Despite the police presence, drug trafficking continues, albeit in a more discreet manner, with gangs occasionally attacking police stations.

Cases of alleged police abuse have also been reported. In the Rocinha favela, a 42-year-old construction worker, Amarildo de Souza, has been missing since July 14 when he was picked by police for questioning.



GUDVANGEN (AFP) - A helicopter and emergency services are seen during the evacuation amid a fire inside a tunnel near Gudvangen, western Norway. Seventy-three people were hospitalised with symptoms of smoke poisoning Monday after their vehicles were trapped by a truck fire inside Norway's second-longest tunnel, local authorities said. Police said the fire broke out for reasons still to be determined about 3.5 kilometres (two miles) inside the tunnel's western entrance.

International News

Spain arrests paedophile pardoned by Morocco

MADRID (AFP) - Police on Monday arrested a Spanish paedophile who had his pardon revoked by Morocco's King Mohamed VI after it sparked angry protests, the interior ministry said.

Daniel Galvan Vina, who was convicted of raping 11 children aged between four and 15 and sentenced in September 2011 to 30 years in prison in Morocco, was detained in Murcia in southeastern Spain, an interior ministry spokesman said.

Galvan, who once worked at the University of Murcia, will be taken to Madrid "in the coming hours" where he will be brought before Spain's top criminal court, the National Audience, which will decide his fate, the spokesman added.

He was among 48 Spanish prisoners pardoned by the king on Tuesday last week following a visit to Morocco by Spain's King Juan Carlos.

The pardon sparked outrage in Morocco, which has seen several high-profile paedophile arrests in recent months.



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Father of missing beauty queen found hanged in France

PERPIGNAN (AFP) - The father of a beauty queen who disappeared without trace along with her mother was found hanged Monday in his French Foreign Legion barracks, judicial sources said.

Francisco Benitez, chief warrant officer in charge of recruitment in the Foreign Legion, was discovered in the barracks where he worked in the southwestern city of Perpignan, a source close to the case said.

His daughter Allison, 19,

and his wife Marie-Josée Benitez, 53, disappeared on July 14 and have not been seen since, local assistant prosecutor Luc-André Lenormand told AFP.

Benitez, a Spaniard who was granted French nationality, left a letter and video behind, and also sent emails to

his parents, bosses and friends to tell them he could not stand the suspicions weighing on him.

He said he was innocent and declared his love for his daughter, sources close to the case said.

The two women's disappearance was initially treated as a simple missing persons case -- one of the tens of thousands such incidents that take place every year in France -- especially as husband and wife were separating.

But on Friday, authorities opened a judicial probe into their disappearance, admitting it had become a source of concern.

According to Benitez's previous statements to the police, the two women left their home on July 14 with suitcases, without any explanation.

LatAm nations express surveillance 'indignation' to UN

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - Latin American bloc Mercosur reiterated Monday to the United Nations its indignation over US espionage practices revealed by Edward Snowden, without prescribing its next steps on the matter.

During a meeting with Ban Ki-moon, foreign ministers from Venezuela, Uruguay, Brazil and Argentina presented a final declaration from a recent Mercosur summit, condemning the US information gathering.

Venezuelan counterpart Elias Jaua spoke of "concern and indignation," adding that the spying "violated international principles and human rights." Venezuela currently presides over Mercosur.

The two ministers said that



Ban shared their worries. UN spokesman Martin Nesiry said he was unable to comment on the matter at this time.

Asked what concrete steps Mercosur wished the UN to take, Patriota reiterated that it was time to "issue a warning" and that Mercosur would "coordinate to consider various

initiatives," without adding further detail.

The ministers also touched on the "unprecedented" refusal by several European nations to allow the airplane of Bolivian President Evo Morales in their airspace recently after rumors that Snowden could be on board.

According to Patriota, the member states and Ban also discussed the embargo against Cuba and the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, claimed by both Argentina and the UK.

The four ministers will be in New York on Tuesday for a UN Security Council discussion on cooperation between the UN and regional bodies. Argentina will preside over the council beginning in August.



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Health & Living

No link between sleep, fatigue level: research



STOCKHOLM (AFP) - New Swedish research has shown that there is little or no relation between how much sleep people get at night and how fatigued they feel, the head researcher said Thursday.

"The length of sleep is not a good measurement to analyse whether we get enough sleep or not," Torbjörn Aakerstedt told AFP of the studies conducted at the Stress Research Institute of Stockholm University.

"It's genetically conditioned and dependent on age and health," he said.

Aakerstedt's team has conducted three different studies, one of which investigated the sleep patterns of nearly 6,000 individuals.

The research suggests that the number of hours slept is of much less importance in determining how a person functions throughout the day.

"If you feel fine and dynamic during the day, you've probably

slept enough," said Aakerstedt.

The research, to be published later this year, found the average number of hours slept during a working week is six hours 55 minutes, with an extra hour's sleep during holidays.

The researcher said that 20-year-olds should sleep eight hours on average, whilst 60-year-olds require only six.

"But there is no general average," Aakerstedt added. "Twenty-year-olds can sleep even more, but still be tired during the day" as their brain is still developing.

Yet, although more sleep does not mean more energy, no one should sleep too little, as it affects one's health, he said.

Too little sleep can result in a weak immune system, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, weight gain, workplace incidents and traffic accidents.

35 drown as heatwave grips Poland

WARSAW (AFP) - Thirty-five people have drowned in Poland since the beginning of August, according to police, as Poles attempt to combat a heatwave by flocking to the beach.

Last weekend alone, 25 Poles drowned as the scorching weather that has gripped the country pushed the mercury to 36 degrees Celsius (97 degrees Fahrenheit) in some regions.

More than 300 people have drowned in Poland since May, as a heavy drinking culture and a lack of supervision on beaches contribute to a high level of accidental deaths in water.

In France, 91 people have drowned since the beginning of July, 37 of them while swimming in the sea. Most were men 40 and above who ignored red flag warnings on beaches, according to local government statistics.

India's poor drain 'impure' blood to cure ills



NEW DELHI (AFP) - In this photograph taken of Mohammed Iqbal, son of elderly doctor Mohammed Gyas, applies cuts to the arm of an Indian woman at their open air clinic outside the Jama Masjid in the old quarters of Delhi. Among a handful of poorer, and sometimes remote, communities in India, traditional practices like bloodletting are favoured. About 50 patients queue each day at the open-air clinic in the shadow of India's largest mosque, the Jama Masjid, for the treatment which Gyas says can cure everything from paralysis to diabetes and even cervical cancer.



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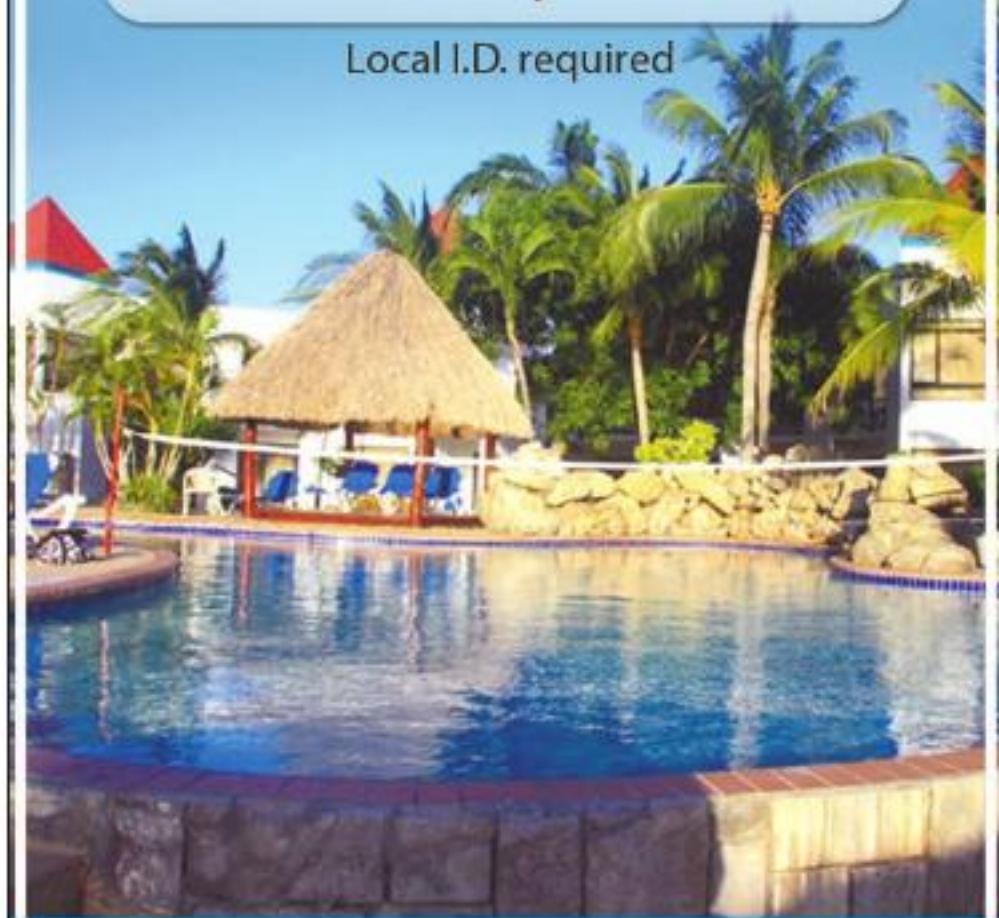
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Pakistan rains kill 58, affect 66,000

SLAMABAD (AFP) - Monsoon rain and floods have killed at least 58 people across Pakistan and affected tens of thousands of others, officials

said Monday, warning of more rain to come.

Brigadier Mirza Kamran Zia said floods were receding and people were returning to

their homes, but he warned that more rain than usual was expected this month and next.

NDMA chief Major General Muhammad Saeed Aleem said the recurring flooding was the result of global climate change.

Flash floods following monsoon rain paralysed parts of the largest city Karachi at the weekend.

Authorities in the city of 18 million people, which contributes 42 percent of Pakistan's GDP, said it would take more than two days to clear up after the water flooded markets, buildings and houses and blocked roads.

Hundreds of cars were half-submerged after poor sewerage and drainage systems became



blocked due to garbage.

In the northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, homes were swept away.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif sent three of his cabinet ministers to inspect damage in

flood-hit areas.

Pakistan has suffered devastating monsoon floods for the last three years, including the worst in its history in 2010 when catastrophic inundations killed almost 1,800 people and affected 21 million.



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Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.78
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	192.51
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	238.49
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	27.48
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	32.23
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	30.61
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	182.58
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Amazon's Bezos buys Washington Post for \$250 mn

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Amazon founder Jeff Bezos will buy the struggling Washington Post newspaper from longtime owner the Graham family for \$250 million, the Post announced Monday.

Bezos is making the purchase as an individual and Amazon is not involved, the Post said. The deal involves only the newspaper assets of the Washington Post Co., which also owns the Kaplan testing company and other units.

The stunning announcement came just days after the New York Times sold the Boston Globe newspaper for just \$70 million to the owner of the Boston Red Sox baseball team, and underscored the desperation of the US newspaper industry for new cash support to survive the rapid transition of the business to the internet.

"I, along with (Post publisher) Katharine Weymouth and our board of directors, decided to sell only after years of familiar newspaper-industry challenges made us wonder if there might be another owner who would be better for the Post," said Donald Graham, chairman and chief executive of

The Washington Post Company.

"Jeff Bezos' proven technology and business genius, his long-term approach and his personal decency make him a uniquely good new owner for the Post."

US stocks drop on Fed taper talk

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - US stocks ended mostly lower Monday on fairly quiet trading during which some investors fretted about the possible pullback of the Federal Reserve's aggressive bond-buying program.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 46.23 (0.30 percent) at 15,612.13.

The broad-based S&P 500 dropped 2.53 (0.15 percent) to 1,707.14, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index added 3.36 (0.09 percent) at 3,692.95.

The US growth outlook appeared firmer as the Institute for Supply Management's July purchasing managers index for the services sector showed a healthy jump in activity.

That raised some concerns that the Federal Reserve might taper its bond-buying program "sooner rather than later," said Alan Skrainka, chief investment officer at Cornerstone Wealth Management.

Some investors also looked at comments from Federal Reserve Bank of Texas President Richard Fisher that advocated a quick tapering.

"Anytime there is Fed chatter, there is an impact on the market," said Michael James, managing director of equity trading at Webush Securities,

FINANCE

Microsoft cuts price of high end Surface tablets

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - Microsoft on Monday knocked \$100 off the price of high-end versions of its Surface tablet, which is competing against Apple's iPad and devices that use Google's Android system.

The software giant's online store is offering US consumers the Surface Pro for \$799 or \$899, depending on memory capacity, down from \$899 and \$999 respectively.

"We've been seeing great worldwide success with Surface RT pricing and keyboard-cover promotions over the past several months and are proud to offer Surface Pro at more affordable prices," Microsoft said in an email response to an AFP inquiry.

"People who buy Surface love Surface, and we're eager for more people to get their hands on Surface and share their excitement."

The Surface RT is a basic version of the tablet, which got a 30 percent price cut last



month after failing to gain traction in the market.

The Surface RT price dropped to \$349 from \$499.

Surface Pro tablet prices are being discounted in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Canada and the United States through August 29, according to Microsoft.

The promotion comes on the heels of shabby tablet sales that resulted in Microsoft taking a \$900 million charge against fourth quarter earnings.

which closed at the end of June.

The charge exceeds sales of the tablet since it was launched at the end of October 2012, estimated by the company at \$853 million.

Surface was introduced as a platform for Microsoft's new Windows 8 operating system, which was launched at the same time in a bid to make up for ground lost to Apple and Google in the mobile domain.

BP accused of manipulating US natural gas prices



adding that the market could easily reverse itself Tuesday.

Apple rose 1.5 percent after the Obama administration overturned an International Trade Commission ban on some of the tech giant's products, stepping into a long-running patent dispute between Samsung and Apple.

Meat processor and marketer Tyson Foods rose 4.1 percent after earnings bested analyst estimates by 9 cents at 69 cents a share. The company also signaled that 2013 revenues would be above market expectations.

Semiconductor and wireless technology producer Qualcomm slipped 0.8 percent after Piper Jaffray cut its rating on the firm on concerns about softening high-end smartphone demand.

Industrial and construction tool supplier Fastenal dropped 1.9 percent after monthly sales showed an increase of 2.9 percent in July compared with last year, below the 5 percent expected, according to a Credit Suisse note.

Bond prices fell. The yield on the 10-year US Treasury rose to 2.64 percent from 2.60 percent last Friday, while the 30-year increased to 3.73 percent from 3.69 percent. Bond prices and yields move inversely.

cations that initially arose from market disruptions caused by a hurricane.

Doing so significantly increased the value of contracts held by the trading team, the report said, netting BP around \$800,000 gains.

The taped phone conversation proved "sufficient to provide staff with an outline of the Texas team's manipulative scheme," the FERC report said.

In addition to the proposed \$28 million penalty, BP would be required to disgorge \$800,000 under the FERC action.

BP called the allegations "without merit" and said it will "vigorously" contest them.

BP vice president Geoff Morrell said in a statement that the phone conversation, which he said was between a trainee and a trader, was "completely" taken out of context.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



World's first test-tube burger tasted in London



LONDON (AFP) - Scientists unveiled the world's first lab-grown beef burger in London on Monday, frying it in a little oil and butter and serving it to volunteers in what they hope is the start of a food revolution.

The tasters pronounced the 140-gram (five-ounce) patty, developed at a cost of more than 250,000 euros (\$330,000) with backing from Google co-founder Sergey Brin, as "close to meat" in flavour and texture but not as juicy.

The so-called "cultured beef" -- dubbed the "Frankenburger" -- was made using strands of meat grown from muscle cells taken from a living cow, mixed with salt, egg powder and breadcrumbs and coloured with beetroot juice and saffron.

Professor Mark Post of Maastricht University in the Netherlands, who led the research, claimed it could eventually replace ordinary beef in the diets of millions of people and in so doing reduce the

huge environmental pressure caused by raising livestock.

Post insisted the artificial beef is safe, promising to give the leftovers from Monday's tasting to his children.

"I ate it myself a couple of times with no hesitation whatsoever... I would feel perfectly comfortable letting them taste it," he told journalists at the tasting.

Post acknowledged that the technology was at a very early stage but predicted the meat could be on supermarket shelves in 10 to 20 years.

The first public tasting took place at a west London theatre, where a professional chef cooked the round, pink patty over low heat at a kitchen counter similar to those used in TV cookery shows.

One of the volunteers, Austrian food researcher Hanni Ruetzler, cut into it carefully, before declaring: "It's close to meat. It's not that juicy, but the consistency is perfect."

US-based author Josh Schonwald, the other volun-

teer, added: "The absence is the fat. There's a leanness to it. But the bite feels like a conventional hamburger."

He remarked that the whole experience was rather unnatural, jokingly complaining that he should have been allowed to try the beef with a little tomato ketchup. The scientists took stem cells from organic cows and placed them in a nutrient solution to create muscle tissue, which then grew into small strands of meat.

The burger required 20,000 such strands, grown over three months.

Proponents of test-tube meat cite a variety of reasons for supporting it, from animal welfare to the environment and even public health -- lab-created meat theoretically carries no risk of disease and is not treated with antibiotics.

According to a report from the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation, global meat production will more than double between 2000 and 2050, to 465 million tonnes.

Campaigners say such demand is putting unsustainable pressure on the planet, both through the feed required for the animals and the methane gas they produce, which contributes to global warming.

Animal rights group Peta has offered a prize of \$1 million (750,000 euros) for the first lab to produce and bring to market in-vitro chicken meat, and is funding research in the United States.

Google entrepreneur Brin stepped in to support the Maastricht project after funding from the Dutch government ran out.

Britain's Vegetarian Society questioned the need for such technology when people could just stop eating meat.

Dr Neil Stephens, a sociologist based at Cardiff University who has studied test-tube meat, said it remained to be seen whether the public would accept it.

EU seizes billion euros of fake goods in 2012: customs



BRUSSELS (AFP) - European Union customs authorities seized a billion euros' (\$1.3 billion) worth of fake goods in 2012, mainly from China and mainly through the post and concerning cigarettes and drugs such as Viagra, the EU said on Monday. About 40 million individual articles suspected of violating intellectual property rights were confiscated, the European Commission's annual report on customs action to enforce these rights said. Most of these items were destroyed. The value of the seizures was roughly the same as in 2011, although the number of articles -- which fluctuates wildly -- was well down from nearly 115 million in 2011. The postal route accounted for about 70 percent of cases, with almost one-in-four of all postal interceptions revealing fake medicines, namely lifestyle drugs ordered direct over the Internet.



Paraguay watches odd urban gold rush



ASUNCION (AFP) - They appeared out of nowhere, making a mess, operating without a permit and disrupting the football season by luring gawkers. But who can resist 10 tons of buried gold?

That's what a team of 20 men say they have been digging for since Friday in the middle of a suburb of Paraguay's capital.

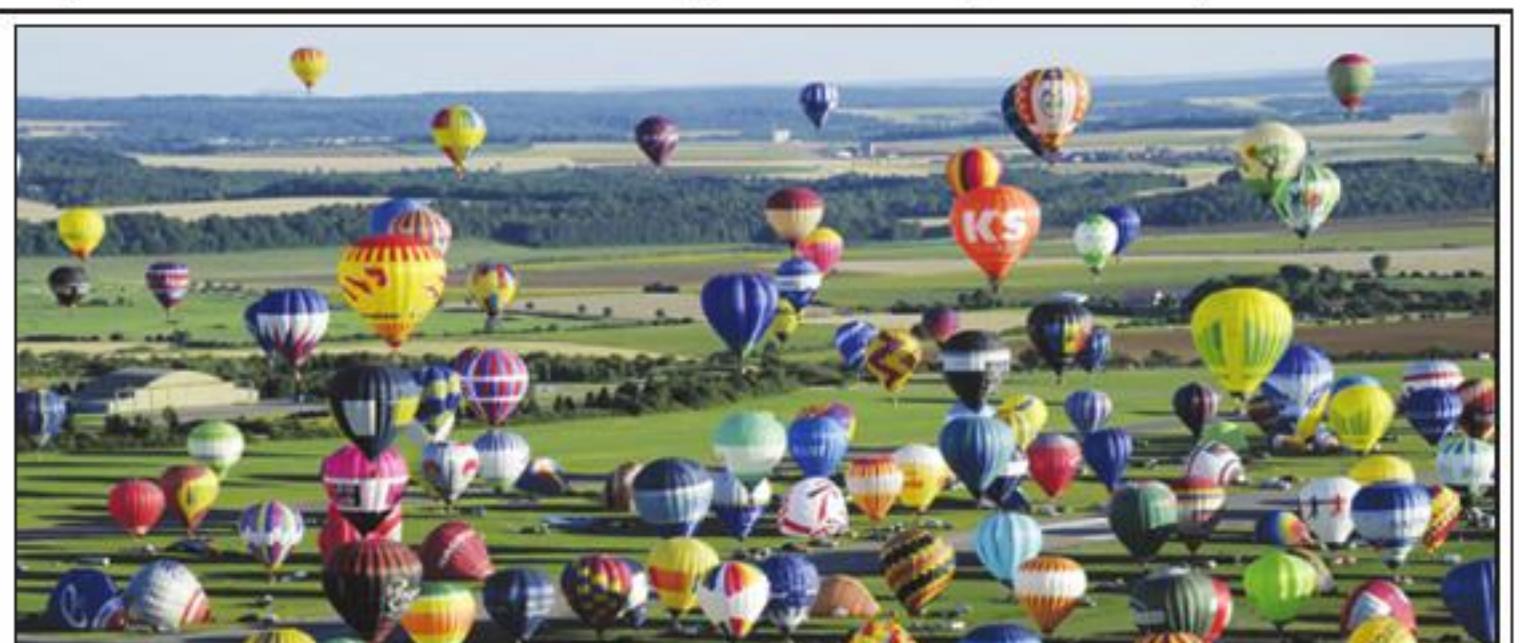
Alberto Diaz, the leader of the bunch, equipped with heavy equipment and watched over by police, says he has historical references suggesting the alleged gold trove belonged to one Francisco Solano Lopez -- a military

hero who died in a 19th century war that pitted Paraguay against Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay.

But the digging has started causing landslides and water is gushing at the dig site, 15 meters (50 feet) at its deepest.

A crowd of some 300 are watching the digging. On Sunday, people ignored a match in the local football league that was being played just nearby, succumbing instead to gold fever and observation of the landslides.

The government's environmental protection agency said Monday the team is digging without a permit.



Chambley-Bussières (AFP) - Hot air-balloons take off from Chambley-Bussières, eastern France, to try to set up a world record with 408 balloons in the sky as part of the yearly event "Lorraine Mondial Air Ballons", an international air-balloon meeting.

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5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



Delicious Breakfast

-- A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on para-

dise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an internationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers—the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 8

a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$4.99, (\$5.48 with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, with free refills on fresh coffee. A new plate called the "Home Run" comes with 2 eggs, bacon or sausage, 2 pancakes, toast, home fries, with complimentary, unlimited coffee for only \$9.99! Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda,

Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aaron's secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeno peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

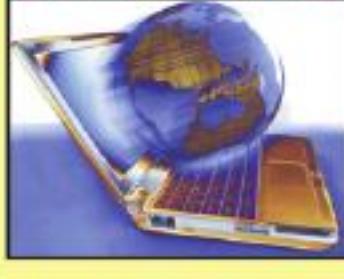


5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to

watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way—with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open from 8am to 10pm-ish Sunday - Thursday. For those late night diners, 5 Burgers is open until 3AM-ish on Friday & Saturdays! Delivery is available to most Hotels and most beaches! Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

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Football: Fabregas will stay at Barcelona, says Pique

BANGKOK (AFP) - Cesc Fabregas will resist overtures from Manchester United to stay at his "dream" club Barcelona, his teammate and close friend Gerard Pique said Monday.

The English Premier League champions have so far failed with two bids for Fabregas, who has emerged as their main summer transfer target as new boss David Moyes seeks to inject a creative force into his midfield.

But Pique, a close confidante of the midfield maestro since their time at Barcelona's acclaimed La Masia academy, said Fabregas was determined to stay in Catalonia and fight for a starting place at the club he left as a 16-year-old.

His comments echo those of Barcelona sporting director Andoni Zubizarreta, who told Spanish media Monday that Manchester United have abandoned their interest in the play-maker.

Fabregas, who was met with

garlands as he arrived in Bangkok with his teammates, has failed to nail down a starting position in Barca's star-studded midfield. His international teammates Xavi, Andres Iniesta and Sergio Busquets are ahead of him in the pecking order, especially in big matches.

But Barca are reluctant to sell the pint-sized Fabregas, especially since the loss of Thiago Alcantara to Bayern Munich.

Barca enticed Fabregas back from Arsenal with a long-term view to him replacing the 33-year-old Xavi, who is expected to play fewer games in the coming season.

But Iniesta said competition for places at the La Liga champions was not something that deters the players.

Barcelona return to Asia three years after their last tour of the football-mad continent - home to a massive fan base and huge potential sums in sponsorship.



EAST RUTHERFORD (AFP) - C Milan's Antonio Nocerino tackles Chelsea's Ramires during a 2013 International Champions Cup match on Sunday at MetLife stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Chelsea won 2-0.

Athletics: Bolt and team-mates tested at training camp

KINGSTON (AFP) - All 44 athletes on the Jamaican team, including sprint superstar Usain Bolt, were tested Monday at their Moscow training camp for the athletics World Championships.

Team officials confirmed that agents from the World Anti-doping Agency (WADA) arrived at the camp in Moscow, where all of the athletes had blood taken in the sweeping operation.

It wasn't clear if an entire national team had ever before been asked to undergo testing on the eve of a major competition.

The Jamaican track and field program has been under increased scrutiny over the last two months after former World 100m record holder Asafa Powell and his training partner Sherone Simpson were among five athletes who tested positive at the Jamaican championships in Kingston in June.

Powell and Simpson returned positive tests for a stimulant oxilofrine, results that came just weeks after two-time Olympic women's 200m champion Veronica Campbell Brown also returned a positive test at a meeting in May.

SPORTS

Swimming: Dutch sprint queen happy to add world



BARCELONA (AFP) - Holland's Ranomi Kromowidjojo added world gold to her Olympic crown on Sunday as she won the women's 50m freestyle final at swimming's world championships with Australia's Cate Campbell second.

Kromowidjojo clocked 24.05sec with Campbell, who won the 100m world title on

Friday, at 0.09 back and Fran Halsall at 0.25 adrift to claim Britain's first medal in the Palau Sant Jordi pool.

Having won bronze in the 100m freestyle, 50m butterfly and 4x100m freestyle relay in Barcelona, the 22-year-old Kromowidjojo admitted she was relieved to finish with gold.

Football: Chelsea fail in second bid for Rooney



LONDON (AFP) - Manchester United have rejected a second bid from Premier League rivals Chelsea for unsettled England forward Wayne Rooney, United confirmed on Monday.

Chelsea made an offer thought to be around £25 million (\$38.5 million) but it was immediately rejected.

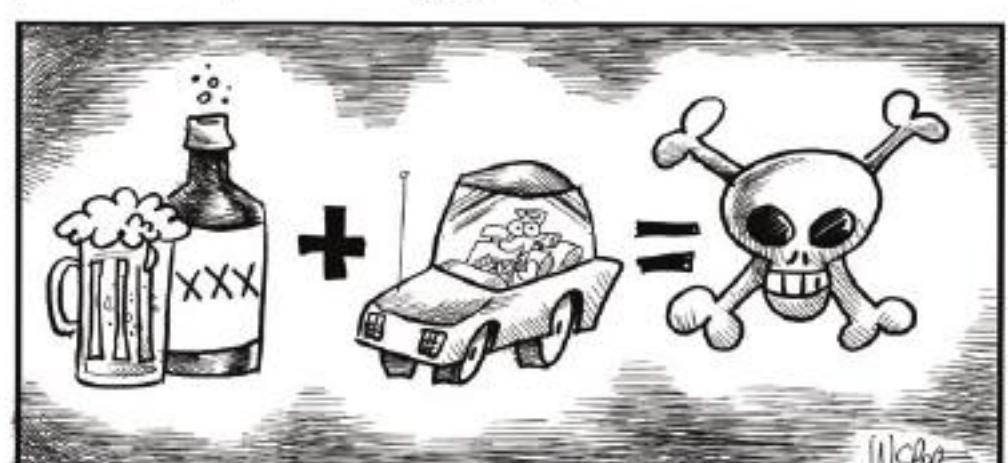
The second bid and United's swift response could prompt Rooney to hand in an official transfer request.

New Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho has made the 27-year-old his top transfer target,

but United have had trouble signing other players this summer and have been frustrated by their pursuit of Barcelona's Cesc Fabregas.

United's new manager David Moyes has repeatedly stressed that Rooney is not for sale. Rooney himself is believed to have been unhappy at Moyes' remarks that he would effectively have to be understudy to main striker Robin van Persie.

United later announced that Rooney would not travel to Sweden for Tuesday's friendly against AIK Fotboll.



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MLB: A-Rod, 12 others banned in doping scandal

continued from page 16

Rangers slugger Nelson Cruz, Detroit Tigers shortstop Jhonny Peralta, San Diego Padres shortstop Everth Cabrera and pitcher Fautino De Los Santos, Yankees catcher Francisco Cervelli and outfielder Fernando Martinez, Philadelphia Phillies reliever Antonio Bastardo, Seattle Mariners catcher Jesus Montero, Houston Astros pitcher Sergio Escalona, New York Mets utility man Jordany Valdespin and outfielder Cesar Puello and free-agent pitcher Jordan Norberto each accepted 50-game bans.

Cruz is a significant loss for the Rangers. He leads the club in home runs with 27 and runs



batted in with 76.

The Tigers had already prepared for the loss of Peralta by

acquiring Jose Iglesias from Boston last week.

MLB Commissioner Bud

ing sanctions imposed by a sport that has long struggled to get to grips with the issue.

Several stars have admitted to doping and such icons as US home run king Barry Bonds and pitching legend Roger Clemens escaped doping charges in court cases but only after their legacies were tainted.

"Despite the challenges this situation has created during a great season on the field, we pursued this matter because it was not only the right thing to do, but the only thing to do," Selig said of the probe, adding praise for the efforts of the players' union, which has often been at odds with the league over anti-doping procedures.

Selig said the outcome of the Biogenesis investigation was proof of the effectiveness of the anti-doping policies, which have been toughened in recent years after complaints from US lawmakers.

The sweeping suspensions, based on evidence gathered in the investigation rather than on positive drug tests -- so-called non-analytical positives, are the most comprehensive dop-

"As a social institution with enormous social responsibilities, Baseball must do everything it can to maintain integrity, fairness and a level playing field," Selig said. "We are committed to working together with players to reiterate that performance-enhancing drugs will not be tolerated in our game."

Golf: Tiger and Phil set for PGA duel at Oak Hill

ROCHESTER (AFP) - World number one Tiger Woods and new British Open champion Phil Mickelson are on a collision course, fighting for the year's last major golf crown at the 95th PGA Championship.

Practice began Monday at Oak Hill Country Club with Woods coming off a seven-stroke triumph at the World Golf Championships Bridgestone Invitational, his eighth triumph at Firestone Country Club, and Mickelson still enjoying last month's British Open win at Muirfield.

Woods, a 14-time major winner chasing the all-time record of 18 majors won by Jack Nicklaus, has not won a major title since the 2008 US Open but says he feels no extra urgency to win the last major before his 38th birthday.

Mickelson, a US Open runner-up for the sixth time in June, captured his fifth major crown and second victory of the year in July and is confi-

dent his game is near its peak at Oak Hill.

Nicklaus, who set the Oak Hill course record of six-under par 174 in winning the 1980 PGA, expects that mark to fall this week despite dense rough and tough greens.

When it comes to picking a favorite, Nicklaus says: "You would be pretty hard pressed not to make (Woods) one of the favorites, if not the favorite."

But he added that Mickelson "would have to be the favorite going into the PGA on the record he has played. He is playing awfully well".

The last time Woods won by more than six strokes the week before a major was in 2007 at Firestone, just ahead of his PGA Championship title at Southern Hills.

Defending champion Rory McIlroy, who has struggled most of the season, is among those who intend to spoil the Tiger-Phil showdown scenario.

MLB Standings

American League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
BOSTON	68	45	.602	—
TAMPA	66	45	.595	1.0
BALTIMORE	61	51	.545	6.5
YANKEES	57	53	.518	9.5
TORONTO	51	60	.459	16.0

Central	W	L	Pct	GB
DETROIT	64	45	.587	—
CLEVELAND	62	49	.559	3.0
KANSAS	56	52	.519	7.5
MINNESOTA	48	60	.444	15.5
CHICAGO	40	69	.367	24.0

West	W	L	Pct	GB
OAKLAND	64	46	.577	—
TEXAS	62	50	.554	2.5
SEATTLE	52	59	.468	12.0
LA ANGELES	51	59	.464	12.5
HOUSTON	36	74	.327	27.5

National League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
ATLANTA	67	45	.598	—
WASHINGTON	54	57	.486	12.5
PHILADELPHIA	50	61	.450	16.5
NY METS	49	60	.450	16.5
MIAMI	43	67	.391	23.0

Central	W	L	Pct	GB
PITTSBURGH	67	44	.604	—
ST. LOUIS	65	45	.591	1.5
CINCINNATI	61	51	.545	6.5
CHICAGO	49	62	.441	18.0
MILWAUKEE	47	64	.423	20.0

West	W	L	Pct	GB
DODGERS	60	49	.555	—
ARIZONA	56	55	.505	5.5
SAN DIEGO	52	60	.464	10.0
COLORADO	52	61	.460	10.5
SAN FRANCISCO	49	61	.445	12.0

x-Clinched Playoff Spot; y-Division Champ

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NBA:
Portland's Harris hit with five-game drug ban



NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - Portland Trail Blazers American guard Terrel Harris was suspended without pay for five games for a violation of the NBA's anti-drug program, the league announced on Monday.

Harris, who turns 26 on Saturday, will begin the ban with the first game of the upcoming 2013-2014 season, provided he is healthy and physically able to perform.

The league did not announce what substance was involved in the violation of the anti-drug program agreed upon in conjunction with the players union. US medical privacy laws often prevent such disclosures.

Harris has averaged 2.3 points and 1.8 rebounds in 42 career regular-season NBA games with Miami and New Orleans.

Harris had a reserve role in Miami's playoff march to the NBA title in 2012, scoring five points and grabbing three rebounds in 10 minutes on the court for the Heat in the post-season. He was traded to New Orleans after seven appearances for Miami last season.

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MLB: A-Rod, 12 others banned in doping scandal

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - New York Yankees star slugger Alex Rodriguez was banned through to the end of the 2014 season Monday in the latest doping scandal to blacken baseball's image.

Rodriguez said he would appeal the punishment, while a dozen other players accepted 50-game suspensions from Major League Baseball over their links to the Biogenesis clinic in Florida.

The announcement ended

weeks of speculation over the fate of Rodriguez, a three-time American League Most Valuable Player who baseball officials say used banned drugs including testosterone and human growth hormone and also tried to obstruct the Biogenesis probe.

Rodriguez's discipline under the Joint Drug Prevention and Treatment Program is based on his use and possession of numerous forms of prohibited performance-en-

hancing substances, including Testosterone and human Growth Hormone, over the course of multiple years," MLB said in a statement.

"Rodriguez's discipline under the Basic Agreement is for attempting to cover-up his violations of the Program by engaging in a course of conduct intended to obstruct and frustrate the Office of the Commissioner's investigation.

Rodriguez's suspension will take effect on Thursday. He

was expected to be in a Yankees uniform for the first time this season on Monday night in Chicago after completing rehab from pre-season hip surgery and a quadriceps injury.

He can continue to play during his appeal, which is expected to be heard by arbitrator Fredric Horowitz.

Rodriguez, who in 2009 admitted to using steroids while with the Texas Rangers from 2001-2003, is slated to miss 211 regular-season games.

It's a potentially devastating sanction for a 38-year-old player, but not as damaging as the lifetime ban that MLB was reportedly considering.

However his appeal eventually turns out, Monday's punishment further shadows Rodriguez's achievements on the field, including a 2009 World Series title with the Yankees and 647 career home runs that put him fifth on Major League Baseball's all-time career list.

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